

Prue Purdey

From: John Munro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2017 9:57 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fire service bill

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

My name is John Munro and I am a CFA Firefighter stationed at Rowville. Previous to this I was stationed at Mildura, I have been a Volunteer and currently I am a staff member. I have been involved with the CFA for a number of years now and have seen it undergo many changes.

All Victoria Firefighters, Professional and Volunteer, deserve modern Fire and Rescue services, that meet the needs of our growing communities.

I have grown up in Melbourne's south east suburbs and in my 28 years have seen a large amount of growth not only in my home suburb of Dandenong but the many that surround it. The fact that the Metropolitan fire district boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years feels like it has to a degree ignored the issue of growth in our communities. We are currently at a point in history where we have the opportunity to modernise our fire service and bring it not only to today but shape it for the future.

This reform is needed to firstly improve community safety and at the same time improve safety for me and my colleagues. Under the current arrangements I could be sent into a burning structure in a pair and if something was to happen to us there would be no team to come in after us, I don't believe this acceptable practise in 2017. In some instances in Mildura there could be as few as 3 of us on a truck, that would allow for the officer to run the job a Firefighter to operate the pump and then one Firefighter to potentially go inside to fight the blaze or rescue occupants by themselves.

There has been a very public long running dispute within the CFA the proposed changes have the ability to remedy these issues. As a volunteer it will give the CFA back as 100% as a volunteer organisation with additional resources and support. As for the current staff in both the CFA and MFB it will put to rest this bitter dispute and allow Firefighters to continue on with the job of serving the communities which is a job we all enjoy doing.

To highlight the stresses that our Firefighters face and its potential effect on mental health in my 23 month service as a career member I have had 2 of my colleagues commit suicide within a 12 month period both were discovered by their peers. Our job is stressful enough as it is without having to be attacked by the media and used as leverage by certain members. Envision being attacked from general members of the public on places like social media to then have to go to work and protect the very same community, the sooner this is resolved and out of the headlines the better off everyone will be. This reform has the chance to make a real positive difference for staff and volunteers and I urge you to strongly consider supporting it.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a Firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to talk to you further about my personal experiences as a professional Firefighter and why this reform is so important.

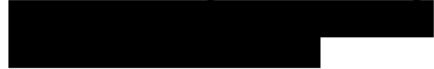
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

John Munro



John Munro Firefighter (A Platoon)
 Rowville Fire Brigade 1063 Wellington rd Rowville Vic 3178



This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.